



United States Department of Interior

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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY REPORT June 2003



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Jessica Morgan, Biological Technician
(on temporary duty from Iroquois NWR)

Volunteers

Kazuyoshi Okura, Margaret Siller, Mark Spara, Megan Dye,
Jaime Woodall.

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Emily and Geoff sampled for larval lake sturgeon in the Lower Niagara River, the whirlpool area, and the upper Niagara River, (6/10, 12-13). No larval sturgeon were collected.

LAKE ONTARIO

The Lake Ontario biomonitoring program continued this month. Betsy, with the help of staff and volunteers collected water samples at three nearshore stations in Lake Ontario and one nearshore station in Lake Erie (6/9, 11, 24, 25). A total of four embayment and nine nearshore sites are sampled 12 times per year, while offshore sites

are sampled less frequently during the year. Samples are collected for phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and zooplankton analysis. The purpose of this program is to monitor key lower trophic variables that will characterize overall ecosystem change.

LAKE ERIE

The Lake Erie lower trophic level monitoring program continued this month. Betsy, with the help of staff and volunteers collected water samples at two stations outside Buffalo Harbor (6/3, 16). A total of 18 stations in Lake Erie and two in Lake St. Clair are sampled 12 times per year. Samples are collected for phosphorus, chlorophyll a, zooplankton, and phytoplankton analysis. Bottom macro invertebrates were collected in May and will not be collected again until the fall. The purpose of this lake wide program is to monitor key lower trophic variables that will characterize long-term ecosystem changes.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Ruffe

Mike G., Mike S., Mike W., and volunteers Megan Dye and Jaime Woodall completed the first of two Eurasian ruffe surveillance trips on Lakes Erie and Ontario (6/23-27, 7/1-2). No ruffe were collected.

Asian Carp

Mike G. and Mark Spara (volunteer) continued an investigation of Buffalo Harbor and Presque-Isle Bay for Asian carp habitat suitability (6/3-4). Parameters including plankton density, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH are being collected. Stream flow, water quality, and substrate type information from Buffalo River, a potential spawning area for Asian carp was also collected (6/10).

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Mike W., Allyson and Geoff conducted a topographic survey of the barrier beach wetland at Four Mile Creek State Park in Niagara County, New York (6/18). The work is being conducted by the LGLFRO for the International Joint Commission as part of a multi-agency study to assess the effects of water level management on Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River coastal marshes. In addition, nearshore seining for round goby was conducted at the creek/lake confluence, with several goby captured and preserved.

Mike W. co-authored a paper that was presented at the 46th Conference on Great Lakes Research (International Association for Great Lakes Research), in Chicago, IL (6/25). The presentation, entitled "Comparison of fyke net versus day electrofishing for assessment of fish habitat in coastal wetlands of the lower Great Lakes" was presented by a collaborator on the project, Kristine Kostuk (McMaster University).

Mike W., Allyson, Geoff, and Natalie Brown (Buffalo State College), conducted stream surveys at two locations along the east branch of Cazenovia Creek in Holland, New York (6/26). Backpack electrofishing was used to assess the fish community found in a portion of the stream scheduled for restoration work in August 2003. Shocking was also performed at a control site upstream. Data will be used to assess impacts of restoration design and implementation on fish community composition.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS) **Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station**

Impacts of grass mowing on bird species

Molly and Jessica, with the help of staff and volunteers continued the point counts and nest searches at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and the nearby BFI/Allied Waste System landfill (our non-mowing site) (5/12). Point counts are conducted approximately every 10 days, and nest searches will be conducted weekly through mid August. This study is examining the difference in bird species and nesting success between a mowed (NFARS) and non-mowed grassland.

Management for the Control of Purple Loosestrife and Common Reed

Molly, Betsy, and Jessica started the surveys for estimating the abundance and distribution of purple loosestrife and common reed this month. Beetles for purple loosestrife control were released at six locations (6/16-17). These locations and other sampling sites will continue to be monitored through the fall and next year to evaluate the effectiveness of this biological control. In addition, the effectiveness of mowing to control both purple loosestrife and common reed will be evaluated through these surveys.

Fort Drum

Emily, Mike W., Mike S., and Geoff completed field surveys at Mud Lake, Conservation Pond, and Indian Lake (6/2-6). Emily and Mike W. participated at a Kids Fishing Day at Remington Pond (6/7) that included a casting contest, outreach information and prizes. Emily also completed an angler information poster and flyer for Indian/Narrow Lakes.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Molly and Emily participated in the Lake Ontario Day at Oswego, New York (6/14). Approximately 30 people visited and met with state legislators and representatives of various agencies involved with Lake Ontario including NYSDEC, Sea Grant, Seaway Trail, and SUNY Brockport.

Betsy and Geoff staffed a display at the Tonawanda Kids Fishing Derby (6/21). Approximately 200 kids and their families participated in the derby despite the rainy weather.

Mike G., Geoff, and Chad Jaquith (volunteer) tagged fish for the Erie Canal Fishing Derby (6/30, 7/3). Fish tagged included large and smallmouth bass, northern pike, bullhead, carp, and freshwater drum.

Chris and Brian Neese, (Computer Consulting Service), developed the prototype for an interactive web-based display designed to entertain and educate the public. The display will be used at outreach events using quizzes,

matching games, interesting facts, and animated characters.

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.